Message Text

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3711

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1616

PASS: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

- 1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS MAY 23 MEDIA REACTION REPORT ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AFRICAN TRIP. END SUMMARY.
- 2. ONE ASPECT OF EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE OF YOUNG'S SOUTH AFRICAN TRIP WAS TO NOTE THE CHANGE IN TONE WITH THE MEDIA ON SUNDAY REPORTING THE LOW-KEY APPROACH, THE "ALMOST ANTI-CLIMATIC" ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT AFTER THE ANXIOUS BUILD-UP TO THE CONTROVERSIAL VISIT, TO THE MONDAY PAPERS REPORTING THE JOURNEY BECAME AN EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS; WPOST'S HEAD IS: "YOUNG OPENS HEART TO SOUTH AFRICANS."
- 3. ROBIN WRIGHT (IN MAY 23 WPOST) REPORTS YOUNG SHED HIS LOW-KEY APPROACH, INTENDED TO "AVOID NEW CONTROVERSIES" THAT WOULD FURTHER STRAIN U.S.-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS AND "OPENED HIS HEART: TALKING TOUGH TO LIBERAL WHITE STUDENTS ...; RAPPING WITH BLACKS ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE SOUTH ...; WARNING EDITORS THAT SOUTH AFRICAN 'MET THEIR MATCH' IN JIMMY CARTER...; AND FINALLY, IN A GESTURE THAT TYPI-UNCLASSIFIED

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FIED THE INTENSE FEELINGS OF THE DAY, SINGING THE AFRICAN NATIONALIST ANTHEM WITH ZULU TRIBAL CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI." WRIGHT SAYS: "THE IMPACT WAS OBVIOUS: BLACKS MOBBED YOUNG AS HE LEFT A U.S.-SPONSORED MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NONWHITE GROUPS." JOHN BURNS (MAY 23 NYTIMES) REPORTS THAT ON SUNDAY, WITH THE YOUNG VISIT WIDELY REPORTED, ESPECIALLY IN THE

BLACK NEWSPAPER "THE WORLD," WHICH SAID YOUNG "HAD THE 'CHARISMA' OF A HOLLYWOOD IDOL," SCORES OF BLACKS GATHERED IN THE STREET NEAR YOUNG'S HOTEL IN "HOPE OF SEEING HIM," AND THE SECURITY MEN "HAD TO FORM A WEDGE" TO GET YOUNG "THROUGH THE FRANTIC CROWD." THE MOST "EMOTIONAL MOMENT" CAME WHEN YOUNG EMBRACED BUTHELEZI, WHO FOLLOWED "THE EMBRACE BY CLENCHING HIS FIST AND SHOUTING 'AMDNLA,' MEANING POWER." THE MOOD, AND YOUNG'S RESPONSE TO IT, "WAS SHARPLY DIFFERENT FROM YESTERDAY," WHEN YOUNG "APPEARED TO TAKE PAINS," DURING HIS DINNER SPEECH BEFORE A PREDOMINANTLY WHITE AUDIENCE, "TO AVOID SAYING ANYTHING THAT COULD PROVOKE THE GOVERNMENT'S IRE."

- 4. MEDIA COVERAGE ALSO STRESSED THE YOUNG THEME THAT CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA COULD BE EFFECTED THROUGH ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE, INSTEAD OF VIOLENCE, ALTHOUGH MOST ALSO QUOTED YOUNG AS SAYING: 'IT WOULD BE QUITE HYPOCRITICAL IF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAD TO TAKE UP ARMS TO GET ITS FREEDOM FROM BRITAIN, WAS TO GO AROUND ADVISING PEOPLE AGAINST IT.'
- 5. SCHMEMANN (AP) REPORTING ON YOUNG'S MEETING WITH ZAMBIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SAYS THAT "HIS ENTRANCE DREW CHEERS AND HIS OPENING LINE BROUGHT EVEN LOUDER ONES. BUT THE HIGHLY POLITICIZED, MARXIST-ORIENTED STUDENTS WERE SOON SHOUTING COMMENTS, GROANING AND JEERING SOME OF YOUNG'S REMARKS." ABC TV ALSO REPORTED THAT YOUNG'S PROPOSAL FOR A BOYCOTT BY BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS JEERED BY ZAMBIAN STUDENTS. THESE TWO ACCOUNTS ONLY COVERAGE THAT HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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APPEARED THUS FAR ON ZAMBIA VISIT.

- 6. ANALYZING MONDALE AND YOUNG MISSIONS, GEOFFREY GODSELL (CSMONITOR) WRITES, AFTER A WEEK OF "VIGOROUS DIPLOMACY," THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S "NEW ACTIVIST POLICY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA NOW HAS TO PROVE ITS CREDIBILITY." HE SUGGESTS A NUMBER OF COURSES THE U.S. CAN TAKE INCLUDING: WITHHOLDING THE U.S. VETO IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL; ENDING OF SHARING OF INTELLIGENCE; WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILITARY ATTACHES FROM SOUTH AFRICA; PUTTING RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA; AND INTRODUCING FOR SOUTH AFRICAN VISITORS TO U.S. DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES SUCH AS THE SOUTH AFRICANS APPLY TO U.S. CITIZENS WANTING TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA.
- 7. WPOST IN "A MIXED-UP AFRICA POLICY" EDITORIAL SAYS THAT IN THE DIVISION OF LABOR ON AFRICA, MONDALE "HAS BEEN WORKING THE WHITE SIDE OF THE STREET" AND YOUNG "THE BLACK SIDE." CARTER, MONDALE, YOUNG "SEEM TO THINK THAT APARTHEID IS EXPENDABLE IN SOUTH AFRICA, AS SEGREGATION WAS IN THE

AMERICAN SOUTH," BUT SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES LOOK UPON "SE-PARATE DEVELOPMENT" AS THE "ONLY BASIS ON WHICH A WHITE MINORITY CAN BE SUSTAINED." IN MAPUTO, ACCORDING TO THE POST, BLACK AFRICANS WERE "SKEPTICAL" OF YOUNG'S ASSUMPTION THAT "NONVIOLENT TACTICS USED IN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE CAN OVERCOME APARTHEID." CARTER, THE POST SAYS, IS PROCEEDING ON A "MISTAKEN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ROLE OPEN TO THE UNITED STATES THERE." IT IS AT LEAST "AS LIKELY" THAT AMERICAN PRESSURE "WILL SIMPLY INTENSIFY" THE RACIAL STRUGGLE "WITHOUT CONTRIBUTING CONSTRUCTIVELY TO ITS SETTLEMENT." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "IN OPENLY ATTACKING APARTHEID, AMERICAN POLICY IS BEING PLACED AT THE SERVICE OF AMERICAN VALUES. BUT WHERE IS IT TAKING THE PEOPLE IT IS SUPPOSED TO BENEFIT. AND WHERE IS IT TAKING THE UNITED STATES? MR. CARTER HAS YET TO SAY."

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3712

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PASS: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

8. BSUN EDITORIAL COMPLIMENTS THE BLENDING OF MONDALE'S "MILITANCY" IN ATTACKING SOUTH AFRICA'S APARTHEID SYSTEM AND YOUNG'S "MODERATION" AT THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE IN "RESISTING DEMANDS...FOR COERCIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE WHITE MAJORITY REGIMES" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. RECOGNIZING THE CAPACITY OF SOUTH AFRICA "TO COMPLICATE OR EASE TENSIONS" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, SUN SAYS IT "MAKES SENSE" FOR THE U.S. "TO SEEK PRETORIA'S COOPERATION" IN RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIA AS LONG AS THE WORLD UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. "WILL SEEK THE LONGER-RANGE GOAL OF ENDING THE RACIAL INJUSTICE THAT BLIGHTS SOUTH AFRICA."

9. COLUMNIST CARL ROWAN CONGRATULATES THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION FOR HAVING DEVELOPED AT LAST A POLICY ON AFRICA THAT SAYS THE U.S. "MUST TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN AFRICA, AND THAT HERE MOST OF ALL WE MUST MANIFEST OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS."

10. C.L. SULZBERGER (NYTIMES) NOTES THE AREA OF AGREEMENT IN THE MONDALE/VORSTER TALKS, AS WELL AS THE TOTALLY OPPOSITE POSITIONS REGARDING APARTHEID AND COMMENTS THAT "IT WILL REQUIRE BOTH PER-UNCLASSIFIED

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SISTENCE AND PATIENCE TO PURSUE THE DIALOGUE NOW STARTED." SULZBERGER, HOWEVER, WARNS THAT THE U.S., "WHILE PRESSING ITS NEW HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY REMORSELESSLY, MUST NOT BE OVER-HASTY IN EXPECTING RESULTS" BECAUSE THERE IS ALWAYS THE DANGER THAT ANGRY SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES MIGHT RETREAT INTO A "FORTRESS OF FEAR."

11. NEWSWEEK WRITES THAT YOUNG WORKED THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE "WITH THE PRACTICED INFORMALITY OF A SOUTHERN POLITICIAN." THE DELEGATES "RESPONDED WARMLY" TO HIS OPEN MANNER AND HIS "STRONG SUPPORT" FOR MAJORITY RULE, AND YOUNG WAS "ABLE TO BUILD BRIDGES" TO BLACK GOVERNMENTS THAT "HAVE HAD FEW IF ANY, OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH WASHINGTON," BUT MANY BLACKS WONDERED WHETHER "HIS RHETORIC REALLY WOULD DO THEM ANY GOOD." NEWSWEEK CONCLUDES: "THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT YOUNG'S RHETORIC WAS LARGELY DIRECTED TO AN AMERICAN AUDIENCE... IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT, ALTHOUGH HE MAY APPEAR AT TIMES TO SHOOT FROM THE HIP, EVERYTHING HE SAYS HAS BEEN THOUGHT OUT TO SPUR DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY AT HOME."

12. MEDIA REPORTING ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE CONCENTRATED ON THE UNSUCCESSFUL LAST-MINUTE ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE A COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES, AND REPORTED YOUNG AS SAYING THAT HE DID NOT FEEL HE BETRAYED AFRICANS BY NOT JOINING IN THE CONSENSUS AND THAT HE, REFERRING TO WESTERN INITIATIVES WITH REGARD TO RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, DEALS 'WITH REAL POWER, NOT WORD POWER.' LEONARD

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